

To the students, faculty, and administration of Adams Street East Side Prep, I again offer my sincerest congratulations as well as my wishes for continued success in the future.

**ECUADOR, LATIN AMERICA,
HUMAN RIGHTS, AND THE BROKEN
JUDICIAL SYSTEM**

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 1997

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the problem of human rights in Ecuador and the larger region of Latin America is of concern to so many people throughout America and in other countries. I enclose for the RECORD a letter from a Canadian who lives in Nova Scotia:

COMMITTEE FOR THE
RELEASE OF MEL SOUTER,
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, May 14, 1997.

Hon. CORRINE BROWN,
*Member of Congress, Third District Florida,
Congress of the United States, House of
Representatives, Washington, DC.*

HONOURABLE CONGRESSWOMAN BROWN: Honourable Congresswoman Brown, I bless you and thank you on behalf of all Canadians for your courage and efforts on behalf of all those imprisoned without trial in Ecuador and elsewhere, and we would deeply appreciate it if you would read this into your motion to the House this afternoon.

To the Chair:—Hon. Members—A Petition to the Government of the United States of America on behalf of Mel Souter in Prison without trail in Ecuador.

Mel Souter a Canadian citizen from Vancouver, Canada, is in the same prison and in the same conditions as Jim Williams from Jacksonville Beach, Florida. Mel was interrogated continuously for thirty (30) hours and then forced to sign a statement he was not allowed to read after two hundred and eight (208) days, he has not even been given a "Summary" decision, which is required by law within sixty (60) days.

As a Canadian, what is even more disturbing to me is that Mel Souter's arrest and detainment was instigated and coordinated by the U.S. government through the agencies of the FBI and the DEA. The Ecuadorians now say the case is bogged down because of lack of evidence which the DEA promised to provide. This case which was known as "PESCADOR" is now being dubbed "FI-ASCO-DOOR" by the locals.

What you do to your citizens inside or outside of the United States is your business—and we do not presume to advise you,—but what you do or cause to be done to my Canadian brother does concern me—and in this case—saddens me and offends me.

After eight (8) months, it is now clear there is no case against this gentle 53 year old Canadian father and grandfather.

As your Canadian neighbours and friends we urge you now to move with speed to undo the wrong that has been done—you cannot allow your agency just to walk away and call Mel Souter "collateral damage". We urge you to give a clear and direct order to the DEA in Ecuador to request his release from the Ecuadorian authorities. I am assured by the Ecuadorian authorities that if the request is made by the U.S. Government through the proper channels, it will be responded to in a positive way.

Please listen—please!!

We are Canadian—

You know the friendship and respect we have for America and its people.

We rescued your brothers in Iran in 1968—Our sons flew along side yours in Dessert Storm—Treat us like the friends we are—and show us your nobility, by making sure that MEL SOUTER is at the HEAD OF THE LINE when they walk through the Green Door and into the arms of their families.

Yours with friendship and respect

MEL EARLEY,

*Chairman, Committee for the
Release of Mel Souter.*

**HIGHER EDUCATION ACCESS AND
AFFORDABILITY**

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 1997

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, in proposing the HOPE scholarship, President Clinton has, to his great credit, identified an issue—college affordability—that is keeping a number of lower- and middle-income Americans awake at night. In the coming weeks, it will fall to the tax-writing committees, working within the framework of the budget, to determine just what sort of tax breaks we can provide for tuition for higher education.

In addition to budgetary constraints, we must be sensitive to the potentially inflationary impact of the provisions we enact. A few short years ago, we came very close to overhauling one-seventh of the Nation's economy partly in response to an alarming rate of medical inflation. Higher education costs are rising twice as fast as health care costs. I raise this as a note of caution, not as an excuse for inaction. We need to help families cope with these costs.

While there is much work to be done, there are several proposals on which I believe all of us—Republicans and Democrats alike—can agree as a starting point for building a consensus on a broader package. Today I am introducing the Higher Education Access and Affordability Act of 1997.

The Higher Education Access and Affordability Act would:

Make the payout from State-sponsored, prepaid tuition plans excludable from income;

Make the section 127 exclusion for employer-provided tuition assistance permanent;

Provide an above-the-line deduction for student loan interest;

Allow tax- and penalty-free IRA withdrawals for higher education expenses;

Allow nondeductible contributions of up to \$1,500 per child per year into higher education savings accounts. The inside buildup would not be taxed. Distributions would not be taxed if the money were used for postsecondary tuition and/or expenses. Anyone could contribute to the account on a child's behalf—for instance, grandparents, aunts and uncles—but the account, not the individual contribution, would be capped at \$1,500 per year.

Mr. Speaker, this package is not a panacea, but it provides a solid starting point. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the weeks and months ahead to develop a broad, balanced public policy response to the challenge of college affordability.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID K. PAGE

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 1997

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, May 28, the Detroit chapter of the American Jewish Committee will present its prestigious Learned Hand Award to David Page.

It is a richly deserved recognition of David Page's many decades of community service.

He has honored his chosen profession within the traditions embodied in Judge Learned Hand's love of the law as an instrument of justice. His active partnership over the years in the law firm of Honigman, Miller, Schwartz and Cohn has been his anchor, and he has blended with it an exceptionally broad and diverse range of activity.

His concern for the health of the residents of Metropolitan Detroit, especially its children, is reflected in his chairmanship of the board of the Children's Hospital of Michigan, and more recently as the vice-chair of the Detroit Medical Center and director of the Karamanos Center Institute and chair of the Board of Visitors of the Wayne State University School of Medicine.

His community activities in the United Way, United Fund Drive, the Boy Scouts, University of Michigan, Marygrove College, the Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan, and the Greater Downtown Partnership have impacted the lives of Michigan residents from numerous walks of life.

He has also been a pillar within his own Jewish community and nationally as director of the Council of Jewish Federations, president of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit his director posts in American and Detroit, ORT, and his work with the Allied Jewish Campaign, the Jewish Community Center, and the Jewish Family and Children's Service, among others.

Clearly, this recital of some of David Page's civic endeavors manifests a person of extraordinary interest in and concern for all of humanity. In his quiet, but sparkling way, he has brought light to many lives.

I have been privileged to see some of his public accomplishments and to be a friend in his private life. The recognition bestowed on him through the Learned Hand Award is the kind he would never seek, but is richly deserved.

**HELPING PARENTS EDUCATE
THEIR KIDS: THE CHILDREN'S
EDUCATION TAX CREDIT**

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 1997

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, as a parent and a former school teacher, I am firmly committed to providing out Nation's children an education which will prepare them for their futures. I believe that only by empowering parents to do more for their child can our Nation's next generation truly thrive.

That's why I am introducing the Children's Education Tax Credit Act today. This bill provides a \$450 tax credit per child for education